

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 2083

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON PRESIDENT OF EC COUNCIL

REF STATE 48228

SUMMARY. CORIDIAL CONVERSATION WITH EC COUNCIL PRESIDENT THORN RELATED PRINCIAPPLY TO STATUS OF AND WAYS TO IMPROVE US:EC RELATIONS, AID TO ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE, MEDITERRANEAN POLICY, ESPECIALLY TURKEY, UN MATTERS, AND IMPLIATIONS TINDEMANS' REPORT FOR INSTITUTIONAL LINKS ACROSS ATLANTIC. END SUMMARY.

1. EC COUNCIL PRESIDENT THORN, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNCIL SEC GEN HOMMEL, AMB DONDELINGER, AND COUNCIL DIRECTOR FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS DUBOIS, RECEIVED ME AND DCM 1 MARCH FOR PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS. THORN MADE PREDICTABLE REMARKS ABOUT IMPORTANCE AND GOOD STATE OF OUR RELATIONS, THEN INDICATED HE THOUGHT MATTERS IN EUROPE AND ACROSS ATLANTIC NEEDED IMPROVEMENT. REACTION TIME TO SITUATIONS WAS TOO SLOW, AS IS PROCESS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION. HE MENTIONED THREE WORRIES: ANGOLA, SHARA, AND POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF US ELECTORAL PERIOD ON WESTERN CAPACITY TO REACT.

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2. ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE. PICKING UP THORN'S MENTION OF ANGOLA, I

CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS. THORN SAID HE AGREED ON THE NEED FOR PROMPT INCREASE IN ASSISTANCE FOR ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE. HE NOTED SUBJECT WOULD BE DISCUSSED BY MINISTERS TODAY, BUT HE FEARED THIS ANOTHER AREA WHERE COMMUNITY REACTION MIGHT BE TOO SLOW.

3. MEDITERRANEAN POLICY. ONE PLACE COMMUNITY HAD "PERHAPS" BEEN TOO FAST WAS GREECE. TODAY HE WOULD PAY THE PRICE. HE EXPECTED A BAD HALF HOUR WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL OF TURKEY. IT APPEARED TURKS HAD REASON TO BE UNHAPPY OVER COMMUNITY POSITION ON TRADE, FINANCE, AND TREATMENT OF WORKERS. I COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON US RELATIONS WITH TURKEY, NOTING DAMAGE DONE BY CONGRESSIONAL INTERVENTION. I INDICATED THAT WHILE IMMEDIATE OUTLOOK WAS IMPROVED FOR RESOLUTION KEY BILATERAL PROBLEMS, THERE WAS STILL LOTS OF ROOM FOR AN ENHANCED EUROPEAN EFFORT TO TIE TURKEY TO WEST. THIS WAS, I THOUGHT, A COMMON NATO INTEREST. THORN AGREED WAY HAD TO BE FOUND, BUT CLEARLY HE IS NOT ANTICIPATING MUCH PROGRESS FROM CURRENT MEETING OF ASSOCIATION COUNCIL. HE TURNED TO DONDELINGER AND ASKED WHY SOMETHING FORTHCOMING COULDN'T BE DONE IN THE FINANCIAL FIELD. AMBASSADOR DONDELINGE REPLIED FRANCE IS INSISTING THERE BE AGREEMENT ON "FLOBAL" POLICY FOR EC FINANCIAL AID BEFORE IT WILL ALLOW DECISIONS ON SPECIFIC COUNTRIES TO BE TAKEN. (WE HAD UNDERSTOOD HOLDOUT ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WAS GERMANY BUT DONDELINGER SAID FRANCE WAS MAIN OBSTACLE, AT LEAST IN THIS CASE.)

4. UN MATTERS. I ASKED THORN, IN THE LIGHT OF HIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY EXPERIENCE, WHAT HE THOUGHT MIGHT BE DONE ABOUT EUROPEAN-US COORDINATION OF UN ISSUES. HE WAS EMPHATIC THAT THERE IS LOTS OF ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT. HE WAS DIPLOMATIC BUT IT CAME THROUGH THAT CHANGE OF US REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK SHOULD FACILITATE IMPROVED US-EC CONSULTATIONS. BEYOND PERSONAL RELATIONS. THORN SAID MAJOR PROBLEM WAS TIME CONSTRAINT. US VIEWS FREQUENTLY SEEM TO BE FORMED AT LAST MINUTE. ALL TOO OFTEN IT WAS TOO LATE TO CHANGE POSITIONS. WHILE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT COULD REACT QUICKLY, LONG LEAD TIME WAS ESSENTIAL IF IMPACT WAS TO BE MADE ON DEVELOPING COUNTRY POSITIONS WHERE MAJOR PROBLEMS LIE. US AND NINE SHOULD TALK REGULARLY AND THEY SHOULD START SOONER. I INTERJECTED THAT UNDER GYMnich FORMULA, WE WERE ALREADY STARTING PROCESS FOR NEXT ASSEMBLY. I ALSO SAID IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE FOR POLITICAL DIRECTORS OF THE NINE TO MEET WITH SENIOR US OFFICIALS PRIOR TO

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NEXT ASSEMBLY. I SAID WE WERE REORGANIZING TO CONDUCT MULTI-LATERAL DIPLOMACY MORE EFFECTIVELY AND THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY KEWIS ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO CONSULTATIONS WITH NINE. THORN INTERJECTED HE HOPED LEWIS WOULD HAVE DAY-TO-DAY ACCESS TO SECRETARY, SINCE OTHERWISE IT WOULDN'T WORK. I SAID SAME KEWIS HAD WORKED CLOSELY WITH SECRETARY IN HIS POLICY PLANNING ROLE AND HAD BEEN HAND-PICKED BY SECRETARY FOR THE JOB. THORN IGNORED POINT ABOUT MEETING WITH POLITICAL DIRECTORS BUT TALKED

ABOUT POSSIBLE MEETING OF EC FOREIGN MINISTERS WITH THE 47 FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE LOME CONVENTION COUNTRIES WHICH MAY BE HELD IN FIJI IN JUNE OR JULY. HE SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE REAL OPPORTUNITY FOR SIDE TALKS WITH KEY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ABOUT UN MATTERS. (IF THIS DEVELOPS, WE MAY WISH TO MAKE SPECIAL EFFORT TO CONSULT EC NINE PRIOR TO THEIR FIJI MEETING.)

5. TINDEMANS' REPORT. WHEN I MADE MOVE TO LEAVE, THORN REVERTED TO STATUS OF OUR RELATIONS, MENTIONING TINDEMANS' PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVED US:EC DIALOGUE. HE SAID SOMETHING WOULD PROBABLY COME OF THIS, BUT NOT EXACTLY WHAT TINDEMANS HAD PROPOSED. HE MENTIONED THAT FRANCE NOW HAD MORE TRANQUIL REACTION TO ENHANCED INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF OUR RELATIONS THAN DURING THE YEAR OF EUROPE EXERCISE. HE GAVE NO INDICATION OF WHAT PRECISELY WAS DEVELOPING. BUT WHEN I REMARKED THAT IMPORTANT THING WAS SUBSTANCE AND THE OPENNESS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP, HE SAID IN SOME CASES THIS WAS NOT ENOUGH. HE SEEMED TO BE SAYING THAT SUBJECT DOSSIERS SHOULD BE KEPT UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW. HE CITED TWO EXAMPLES WHICH STRUCK ME AS RATHER PECULIAR: IN CONTINUING US RIGOROUS TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS ACROSS THE SPECTRUM OF RELATIONS, EVEN THOUGH WE SHARPLY DISAGREED ON SOME MATTERS, WE KNEW PRECISELY WHERE WE STOOD ON EVERY ISSUE ALL THE TIME. ON THE OTHER HAND, EVEN WITHIN THE BENELUX WHERE RELATIONS WERE EXCELLENT, HE PERSONALLY FOUND IT WAS NOT ENOUGH TO SAY EVERYTHING WAS AND SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT. IT WAS ALSO IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW CAREFULLY EACH ISSUE.

6. WHAT IF ANY SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THIS FINAL EXEGESIS I LEAVE TO OTHERS, ONLY NOTING THAT IN CONCLUSION THORN MADE ALL THE RIGHT NOISES ABOUT KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH PERSONALLY AND MAINTAINING THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS VITAL US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS. AFTER ALL, HE SAID, "WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE OF THE BARRIER." HINTON

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